

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

ADDITIONAL SUBSPECIES OF BIRDS FROM
COLOMBIA

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The two races of Colombian birds described herewith have come to attention during study of the collections made in that country for the Smithsonian Institution by the writer and M. A. Carriker, Jr.

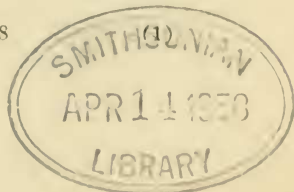
Family Rallidae

Laterallus albigularis cerdaleus subsp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Laterallus albigularis albigularis* (Lawrence),¹ but more reddish brown on the crown and sides of the head, and on the hindneck; deeper reddish brown on the upper breast; throat washed with reddish brown, so that the white prominent in this area in the typical race is much restricted or absent; black barring on posterior ventral surface continued evenly across the abdomen, producing a much blacker appearance.

Description.—Type, U.S. National Mus. no. 386782, male, from Mamatoco, 4 miles east of Santa Marta, Magdalena, Colombia, collected January 3, 1946, by M. A. Carriker, Jr. (original number 7374): Crown and hindneck Mars brown, washed with russet on the forehead; back, tertials, and wing coverts bister, the wing coverts tipped lightly with mikado brown; rump, upper tail coverts and longer secondaries blackish brown, washed with Vandyke brown; rectrices blackish brown internally, bordered prominently with Vandyke brown; outer secondaries and primaries Chaectura drab, edged lightly with drab; loreal feathers hair brown basally, tipped with Mikado brown; feathers on lower eyelid drab; remainder of side of head between Mikado brown and Verona brown, changing to tawny on throat and foreneck, and to russet on sides of neck and across upper breast; feathers of chin and center of throat white basally, washed with tawny; rest of lower surface, including sides and under tail coverts, black, barred narrowly with white; shorter under wing coverts black, barred narrowly with white, longer ones broadly white, with restricted black markings. Distal third of maxilla fuscous; gony dull honey yellow; remainder of bill black, with a wash of olive on the base of the mandibular rami; erus, tarsus and toes fuscous, becoming fuscous-black on the tarsal joint (from dried skin).

¹*Corethra albigularis* Lawrence, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, vol. 7, 1861, p. 302. (Atlantic side of the Isthmus of Panamá along the line of the Panama Railroad.)



Measurements.—Males (6 specimens), wing 67.6-74.3 (71.8), culmen from base 17.5-19.2 (18.6), tarsus 27.6-30.8 (29.3) mm.

Females (4 specimens), wing 69.0-77.8 (72.3), culmen from base 16.6-17.8 (17.0), tarsus 27.3-30.4 (28.3) mm.

Type, male, wing 72.2, culmen from base 19.2, tarsus 30.8 mm.

Range.—The lower Magdalena Valley from eastern Bolívar (Norosí) and Atlántico (Laguna de Guájaro) eastward, and around the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (Hacienda La Esperanza on Río Cesar; Mamotoco, and La Concepción, east of Santa Marta).

Remarks.—Direct comparison of the form here described has been made with a series of 18 males and 17 females from the entire range of the typical subspecies in Panamá. The nominate race extends through Darién and western Colombia (6 males, 5 females examined from Chocó, Antioquia and Nariño) into western Ecuador (5 males, 4 females seen from Esmeraldas, Pambilar, San Javier and Manaví).

All of the specimens of *Laterallus melanophaius* that I have seen have the under tail coverts plain cinnamon brown, while in all of the long series of *albigularis* examined this area is barred black and white. Occasionally there is one that has a few of the under tail coverts tipped with brown, but this marking is casual in occurrence, being found at random through the entire range of *albigularis* (including the subspecies *caniceps*) north to Nicaragua. It can not therefore be considered an indication of integration. I can see no reason for uniting the *albigularis* group and the *melanophaius* complex in the same species.

***Troglodytes aedon effutitus* subsp. nov.**

Characters.—Similar to *Troglodytes aedon atopus* Oberholser,² but paler above and below; dorsal surface in general more grayish brown, with the rump and upper tail coverts lighter brown, and the light bars on the rectrices less rufescent; throat and on foreneck averaging whiter; sides, flanks and under tail coverts brighter, being pinkish buff to clay color instead of sayal brown; under tail coverts usually less barred, in numerous specimens immaculate.

Description.—Type, U.S. National Museum no. 369759, male adult, from Maicao, Comisaría de la Guajira, Colombia, collected April 15, 1941, by A. Wetmore and M. A. Carriker, Jr. (original number 11414). Forehead drab, changing to pale hair brown toward center of crown, this continuing over pileum and hindneck; back and lesser wing coverts hair brown, washed with buffy brown; rump and upper tail coverts between sayal brown and snuff brown; tertials, outer webs of secondaries, and middle and greater wing coverts somewhat brighter than wood brown, barred narrowly with dusky neutral gray, the barring less definite on the wing coverts; inner webs of secondaries and both webs of primaries fuscous-black; outer webs of primaries marked with small, angular spots of light vinaceous-buff; lateral rectrices sayal brown, changing centrally to snuff brown, barred narrowly with dusky neutral gray; lores dull white; superciliary stripe pale pinkish buff, this color extending narrowly forward across upper margin of lores; feathers of auricular region tiller buff edged with hair brown, producing a mottled appear-

²*Troglodytes musculus atopus* Oberholser, *Poc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, vol. 25, January 23, 1904, p. 207. (Cacagualito, about 12 miles east of Santa Marta, Magdalena, Colombia.)

ance; central area of under surface from throat to abdomen white, with a faint wash of pale pinkish buff that is more pronounced across the breast; sides pinkish buff, changing to dull clay color on flanks and under tail coverts; central under tail coverts with two narrow bars of dusky neutral gray; edge of wing and under wing coverts dull white with a faint wash of pale pinkish buff. Maxilla and tip of mandible fuscous; base of mandible drab; tarsus hair brown; toes fuscous (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Males (11 specimens), wing 48.6-54.0 (51.1), tail 33.5-37.2 (35.4), culmen from base 15.4-17.8 (16.6), tarsus 17.5-18.7 (18.2) mm.

Females (7 specimens), wing 46.5-51.5 (48.8), tail 31.2-34.9 (33.5), culmen from base 14.4—16.3 (15.7), tarsus 16.8-18.6 (17.7) mm.

Type, male, wing 48.8, tail 33.7, culmen from base 16.0, tarsus 17.9 mm.

Range.—The Guajira Peninsula, and the middle and lower valley of the Río Ranchería in extreme northeastern Magdalena, Colombia; intergrading with *T. a. atopus* toward the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, and in the valley of the Río Cesar.

Remarks.—Todd³ remarked 35 years ago on the apparent paler color of House Wrens from Riohacha on the Guajira boundary, but it is only with larger series, including birds from farther out in the Guajira, that the differences which establish this race have become evident. In April and early May, 1941 house wrens were common at Riohacha, particularly near the Río Ranchería. Farther west I found them near Maicao and also in the hills around Nazaret, where they ranged in the green forest along the base of the Serranía de Macuire, as well as in the drier areas. In the scrub growths near Puerto Estrella on the coast they were more common than in the interior. Fully grown immature birds have a stronger wash of brown on the under surface than adults. Males from the outer end of the peninsula are slightly larger than those from Maicao westward. Though I did not see house wrens at Puerto López it is probable that this race enters Venezuela around the base of the low hills of the Montes de Oca, southwest of Maicao.

Birds from the lower valley of the Río Ranchería are fairly typical, but there is intergradation with *Troglodytes aedon atopus* in the upper part of this drainage as well as in the low hills that lead back to the west toward the base of the Sierra Nevada. Two males from El Conejo, in the valley 10 miles east of Fonseca, are intermediates, while one from Tierra Nueva, at 4,000 feet elevation in the Sierra Negra, only a short distance to the southeast is definitely *atopus*, as is one from the little settlement of Distracción, 3 miles southwest of Fonseca. One from La Cueva, at 1800 feet in the eastern foothills of the Sierra Nevada, to the northwest of Fonseca on the old trail crossing to Riohacha, also is *atopus*.

The race *atopus* differs from *T. a. inquietus*, its neighbor to the west, by being brighter brown below, with the white of the lower surface restricted to the throat and abdomen, and grayer above, with the sides, flanks, and under tail coverts brighter brown. The maximum development of these markings, and of the barring on the under tail coverts, is found in the Department of Bolívar, there being a slight change toward lighter color through northern Magdalena. Though birds from the Santa Marta region thus show a hint of the paler garb of the new form here

³In, Todd and Carriker, Ann. Carnegie Mus., vol. 14, October, 1922, p. 419.

described, they are well within the boundaries of individual variation of the race *atopus*, which has its type locality in this area. The range of the subspecies extends across northern Colombia from the Río Sinú, and the lower Cauca valley in northern Antioquia through the Department of Magdalena, including the drainage of the Río Ariguani and the Río Cesar, to the slopes of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, and the western base of the Sierra Negra, the northern extension of the Sierra de Perijá.

In connection with this brief outline of the range of *atopus* it is of interest to report specimens of *Troglodytes aedon inquietus* from Acandí, in the north of the Department of Chocó, and from Nicoelí, in the far northwest of Antioquia, these being the first records of this race in Colombia. The two localities are on either side of the broad Gulf of Urabá. The race *inquietus* enters this area from Panamá, where it ranges along the north coast except in the northwestern area. It is common in the interior of Darién, but is not yet reported from near the Pacific coast south of the Gulf of San Miguel. I did not find house wrens at Jaqué, nor along the Río Jaqué in Panamá, immediately to the north of the Colombian boundary, in 1946 and 1947, nor have I seen records to the southward along the Pacific coast of the Department of Chocó in Colombia.

In this study, as in another recent one dealing with the birds of Isla Coiba, Panamá, I have treated the house wrens of Central and South America as conspecific with *Troglodytes aedon* of the North. There is evident no clear cut line of demarcation by which to separate the subspecies that have been grouped under the specific name of *musculus*.